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Dr. Steven Dillingham
Director
U.S. Census Bureau
4600 Silver Hill Road
Washington, D.C. 20233

Dear Census Director Dillingham,

I write to express my grave concern with the enumeration process and outreach efforts that are taking place in Arizona in preparation for the 2020 decennial census. Given the implications an accurate count has on proper representation and distribution of resources, an effective outreach strategy must take into consideration the unique circumstances of the communities being counted.

As a congressional representative for an area of our State with historically hard-to-count communities, I have a vested interest in ensuring that all our constituents are properly accounted for and efforts are taken to address any potential undercounts. I am specifically concerned that parts of Arizona's Third Congressional District, including Tribal lands, rural areas and those with high number of seasonal residents will be impacted.

According to the 2020 Census Operational Plan¹, "Most households in the continental United States will receive a mailed invitation from the U.S. Census Bureau asking residents to complete the census questionnaire online." Yet, many areas of my district, including the vast majority of Yuma County receives their mail via P.O. Boxes. The Bureau's policy to not deliver 2020 census invitations to P.O. Boxes means that residents who don't have fixed mailing addresses will face additional barriers.

In addition, the population of Yuma County is much more transient, with a significant number of migrant and seasonal farm workers as well as retirees spending more than 6 months out of the year here. There are approximately 88,000 migrant and seasonal workers and their dependents who reside in Yuma County alone². However, planned outreach efforts to canvass the homes of individuals who have not responded to the online survey in the Spring of 2020 may prove futile

¹ <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/program-management/planning-docs/2020-oper-plan4.pdf>

² https://www.aachc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/AGRICULTURAL-PROFILE-OF-ARIZONA_6.11.14-FV-.pdf

if those individuals have already left. This could result in thousands of constituents being left out of the enumeration process.

Arizona's constituency is very diverse which is why a tailored approach is necessary. I request information on the specific actions that the Census Bureau is taking to enumerate hard-to-count communities in Yuma County.

1. What resources is the Bureau committing to reach these hard-to-count communities to educate them about the upcoming 2020 Census? When will this information be made available to the community? When do you plan to begin that outreach?
2. What preparations is the Census Bureau in Yuma County taking to reach out to migrant and seasonal workers prior to the Spring of 2020? Will home canvassing efforts be taking place prior to the end of this year?
3. What additional resources is the Census Bureau devoting specific to rural areas in Arizona to ensure an accurate count?

I thank you for your attention on this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress